



**** Please distribute this information to the appropriate staff at your school. ****

Dear School Principal and/or 5th Grade Teachers:

Each year, more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Most of these children are located and safely returned to their families through the efforts of law enforcement, concerned citizens, and children willing to help. To bring awareness to the many children who are missing and to give schools the opportunity to teach children about personal safety, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and state Missing Person Clearinghouses hold an annual “Bring Our Missing Children Home” poster contest.

The Montana Department of Justice Missing Persons Clearinghouse, along with the Office of Public Instruction, would like to encourage your 5th graders to participate in the poster contest. **Each school wishing to participate needs to select a winning poster to submit to Montana’s Missing Persons Clearinghouse by February 14, 2014. We can only accept one poster per school.**

Posters must be original, handcrafted artwork; 8 ½ x14 inches in size, with the words “Bring Our Missing Children Home” appearing on the poster. Posters with digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs and stamping will not be accepted.

To compete in the state contest, the poster and student application form (see attachment) must be **received by February 14, 2014**. Posters are to be sent to:

Montana Department of Justice
Missing Persons Clearinghouse
302 N Roberts – Room 470A
PO Box 201406
Helena MT 59620

Poster artwork will be judged on originality, creativity, use of color and materials, and reflection of contest theme. Written poster applications will be judged on the level of understanding of the subject, clarity, and grammar appropriate for the 5th grade.

The winning student will attend an award ceremony this spring with Attorney General Tim Fox in Helena and receive a \$100 cash prize. The winning Montana poster will then be submitted to the national contest.

The national poster contest winner, along with his/her parents and 5th grade teacher, will be awarded a trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Missing Children's Day ceremony in May 2014.

This is the sixth time Montana has participated in the annual national "Bring Our Missing Children Home" poster contest. Our previous state contest winner was Emma Kuoppola from Ramsay Elementary School. To view her winning poster, go to the Montana Department of Justice Missing Persons website at <http://doj.mt.gov/missing-persons>.

This website also allows the public to view a list of the persons currently missing in Montana and to get more information on Montana's AMBER Alert and Missing Persons programs. The Montana Missing Persons Clearinghouse and the Montana AMBER Alert Program are operated by the Division of Criminal Investigation at the Montana Department of Justice.

Teachers looking for information to share with students on personal safety are also encouraged to check out the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's website at www.missingkids.com and click on Child Safety.

If you have any questions regarding the poster contest or ever need assistance from Montana's Missing Persons Clearinghouse, please contact me at (406) 444-2483 or e-mail jviets@mt.gov.

We look forward to receiving an entry from each school and hope that your school will join in this important competition. Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.

Jennifer Viets

Jennifer Viets, MT AMBER Alert Coordinator
Montana Missing Persons Clearinghouse
Division of Criminal Investigation
Montana Department of Justice
302 N Roberts, RM 470
PO Box 201406
Helena, MT 59620-1406



National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest 2014 Application

Student Name: _____

Age: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Teacher Email: _____

School Phone #: _____

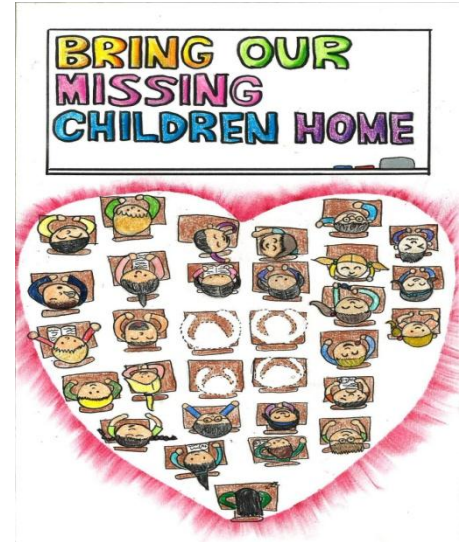
Teacher's Name: _____

Room #: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's Email: _____

2013 Winning Entry



Tell us about your poster and why you created it. (*100 words or less*):

“Biography” Tell us about yourself (*100 words or less*):

Poster Checklist*

Contest Requirements	Complete	Requires more Work
Size: 8 ½ x 14 inches		
Contains phrase “ Bring Our Missing Children Home”		
Artwork ■ Original design ■ Does <u>NOT</u> contain digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs or stamping		
Picture Description ■ Not to exceed 100 words ■ Complete sentences ■ Clearly written or typed ■ Language appropriate for 5 th grader		
Student Biography ■ Not to exceed 100 words ■ Complete sentences ■ Clearly written or typed ■ Language appropriate for 5 th grader		
Application ■ <u>ALL</u> contact information provided ■ Application glued or taped to back of poster		

*Be sure to use the check list to make sure your poster is complete and meets ALL of the guidelines